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LONDONER CHRISTINE NESBITT ADDS MORE GOLD TO HER COLLECTION AT THE SPEEDSKATING WORLD CUP PAGE 18

LONDON metro®

Monday, December 3, 2012

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SPRINKLE FEVER

Londoners Meagen Pyper, 28, left, Anna Carroll, 22, and Beth Prysnuk, 25, go wild with sprinkles, topping their ice-cream sundaes at LifeSpin's first annual Chocolate Sunday bazaar. The event raised money for the local charity's Christmas hamper program that provides food and toys for less fortunate families. Story, page 3. AMANDA GRANT/FOR METRO

'No idea is too small'

SPARKS! Grant program connects Londoners with their neighbours

AMANDA GRANT
london@metronews.ca

Think you know how to make your community better? The SPARKS! neighbourhood-improvement program wants to hear from you.

Established in 2010, SPARKS! pairs the city with residents who want to improve their neighbourhoods. You pitch your idea, and if the city likes it, they'll help fund it to make it happen.

"We're looking for people passionate about enhancing their neighbourhood," said Janice Walter, manager of community development and funding for the city. "We want to hear those conversations you have in the park, or over dinner, about how you could make your neighbourhood better."

This year, the city has allotted $50,000 for the program, and each proposal can receive up to $5,000.

If you have an idea but aren't sure how to make it happen, Walter said SPARKS! can help. "Sometimes people think they have an idea, but it's not worth cultivating," Walter said. "We can push them in the right direction, connecting them with neighbourhood associations or local businesses who can contribute."

Although SPARKS! is a fund-matching program, Walter said Londoners don't necessarily need to cough up the cash. Volunteer work qualifies as a contribution, as do donations of resources — printing flyers for free, for example.

"We hope to be flooded with applications," Walter said. "No idea is too small. We can work with you to help make your community better."

How to apply

Last year, SPARKS! funded 11 projects in seven neighbourhoods. They included community gardens, movie nights in the park, art festivals and newsletters.

- SPARKS! opens its 2013 applications on Monday. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31.
- For applications and more information, go to london.ca/sparks.

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A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

An alarming 40,000 kids drop out of high school every year. Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada are committed to changing that. They provide a safe and supportive place where kids can develop confidence and life skills. They offer programs like *Rogers Raising the Grade*™ to help kids with their studies. The Club is a place where kids can drop in, so they're less likely to drop out.

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11-year-old London girl dies in freight-train collision

Investigation ongoing.
Fatal crash ruled an accident by coroner

AMANDA GRANT
london@metronews.ca

An 11-year-old girl died in hospital Saturday evening following a collision with a Canadian Pacific freight train in East London.

The train was heading westbound Saturday afternoon when it struck the girl at a railway crossing at the intersection of Dundas and Third streets.

The victim was transported to the London Health Sciences Centre, where at 8:30 p.m. she succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced dead.

The investigation is ongoing, but police say that crossing signals and arms were working at the railway tracks at the time of the incident.

Police are unable to say at this time whether the victim was alone at the time of the collision, or who notified them of the incident. The coroner ruled that it was an accidental death.

"London is unique in that we have a lot of railroad crossings throughout the city, so we have to be a little more aware, and it's important to make our children aware as well," said Const. Will Knelsen, media officer for the London police.

"We need to teach children to treat them with even more caution than we treat roadways, as trains can't stop nearly as quickly as cars."

More information will be available following a coroner's report expected Monday.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call police at 519-661-5670, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or visit londoncrimestoppers.com.

2012 train collisions

Four other train-pedestrian collisions in London this year:

- **March 27.** Man hit and killed near Maitland and York streets.
- **May 12.** Man hit and killed near Oxford and Richmond streets.
- **May 18.** Man hit and killed near Third Street and Culver Drive.
- **June 12.** Man hit and sustained life-threatening injuries near Quebec and Adelaide streets.

Memorials were set up Sunday at the railway crossing just north of Dundas Street on Third Street for a young girl fatally struck by a train Saturday afternoon. The name on many of the memorials was Kendra Cameron. AMANDA GRANT/FOR METRO

Free parking returns!

The City of London is once again providing free parking in the downtown core, Richmond Row and Old East Village shopping districts during December. There's a maximum parking time limit posted on each meter. Free parking does not apply in parking lots. Only specially marked on-street and pay-and-display meters qualify for free parking, so look for the "Free Parking — Courtesy of the City of London" notice on the display panel. For more information, call 519-661-4537. METRO

Charity targets city's sweet tooth

The old courthouse was transformed into a festive wonderland on Sunday afternoon for LifeSpin's first annual Chocolate Sunday.

The event, which boasted a buffet of desserts, vendors selling Christmas crafts and live music, was an initiative by the local charity to raise money for its Christmas sponsorship program.

This year LifeSpin has had more than 700 London families come forward asking for help this holiday season, up more than 200 since 2011.

"The need is greater this year than ever before," said Debbie Ratz, a volunteer with LifeSpin.

Families must apply to be a part of the program, showing proof of income and residence. Then they are matched with a sponsor who helps purchase gifts for children and teenagers in that household and provides vouchers for holiday meals.

To sponsor a family, or learn more about the programs LifeSpin provides, visit lifespin.com, or stop by the office at 866 Dundas St.

AMANDA GRANT/FOR METRO

Police partnership

LifeSpin has partnered with the London police for Christmas Lights and Sirens, an event that hopes to fill a police cruiser with toys and gifts for children. The event starts at 10 a.m. Saturday at White Oaks Mall. All donations will be added to those gathered at Chocolate Sunday, and will benefit the local charity's Christmas sponsorship program.

Stabbing incident

Man charged with aggravated assault

A London man has been charged with aggravated assault after police found a 46-year-old victim suffering from non-life-threatening stab wounds around Hamilton Road and Egerton Street on Friday morning. Frank Brandao, 36, was arrested Friday. METRO

International trade

King's professor to speak on expert commission

Erin Hannah, a professor at King's University College, will take part in a commission on the future of multilateral trading systems this week in Cape Town, South Africa. The commission will discuss strategies for promoting fair trade and improving working conditions globally. METRO

Rock show

Billy Talent is London bound

This spring, things are going to get loud. Billy Talent are coming to London on April 3, 2013. The band will perform at Budweiser Gardens, joined by fellow Canadian rockers Sum 41, Hollerado and Indian Handcrafts. Tickets go on sale Friday at noon online at livenation.com and budweisergardens.com.

METRO

Streak. Knights on a roll with 15 straight wins

That's 15 and counting for the London Knights — and an Ontario Hockey League record, to boot.

Seth Griffith scored in the 19th round of a shootout Sunday as the Knights picked up their 15th straight win by defeating the Mississauga Steelheads 4-3. It was the longest shootout in league history.

All 18 skaters from both teams took part in the shootout at Hershey Arena, with Griffith scoring first for London in Round 1 and ending it when he beat Mississauga goalie Spencer Martin with the final shot of Round 19.

Max Domi, Matt Rupert, and Chris Tierney scored in regulation for the Knights, who led 3-1 with about 5 1/2 minutes left in the third period.

Seth Griffith FILE PHOTO

London will go for its 16th-straight victory Thursday night with a game in Brampton against the Battalion. The team record for the Knights is 18 wins in a row, set in 2004. METRO

Holiday music

Handel's Messiah

It's time again for Orchestra London's annual holiday celebration on Wednesday. There will be a performance of Handel's Messiah at St. Paul's Cathedral. METRO

Accepting donations

Light it up

In support of Make-A-Wish, the house at 291 Selbourne Dr. in Port Stanley is decorated with more than 60,000 lights this holiday season. The lights are synchronized to music. METRO

Celebrate. Fanshawe Pioneer Village prepares for a Victorian Christmas

Fanshawe Pioneer Village is welcoming Londoners to come experience a Victorian Christmas.

The historical site is modelling its celebrations after the era and has three signature events.

Families are invited to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast with St. Nicholas at the Pioneer Village Cafe. The site is also hosting a Charles Dickens dinner with a live performance based on one of the author's short stories.

"(It's) a 19th-century Christmas dinner with all the fixings, followed by a performance of one of Charles Dickens plays," said executive director Sheila Johnson. "This year's performance is Cricket on the Hearth."

Johnson also says London families can enjoy old-style carriage rides.

"We also do horse-drawn wagon rides around the village, and a variety of buildings are open for families to tour. That's one of our favourite events around Christmas time."

The village is open every weekend until Dec. 16. Tickets are available online at fanshawepioneervillage.ca. AM980/AM980.CA

Outdoor skating put on ice until temps dip down

A warm December. It must be consistently below –3 C at night, 2C during day before the rinks will be opened

ANDREW SERCOMBE
London@metronews.ca

It may be December, but don't count on outdoor skating just yet. According to Environment Canada, London will experience temperatures above the freezing mark for the rest of the week.

Temperatures like this are not uncommon at the beginning of December, and the outdoor skating rinks outside the Covent Garden Market and at Victoria Park often open after the second week of the month.

"The earliest we have ever opened the Rotary rink is Dec. 6," said Bob Usher of the Covent Garden Market.

In order for the rink to be opened, temperatures must consistently be below –3 C at night and below 2 C during the day.

"History tends to repeat itself," said Usher. "Every year we open in the second week of December, and close in the first week of March. The latest we have been open is March 6."

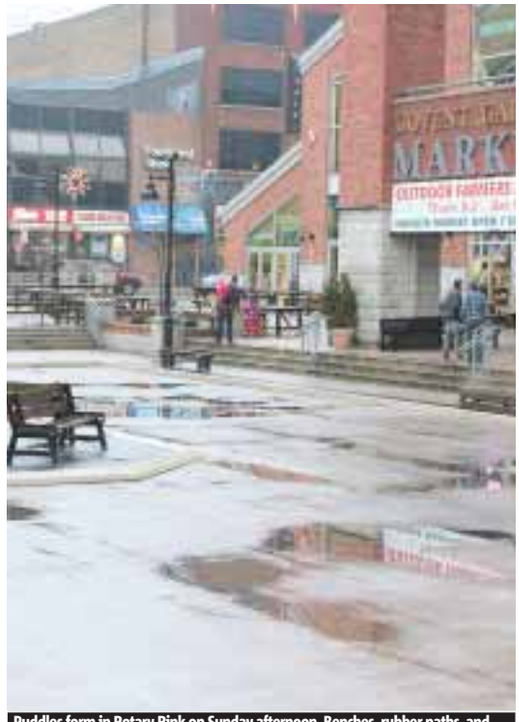
So those anxiously awaiting outdoor skating season will have to wait just a little longer.

Rotary Rink outside the Covent Garden Market also has the benefit of a central chilling system that was installed underneath the concrete to help hurry along the freezing process. It is the same system that any indoor ice rink would have.

Rotary Rink was first built in 2000, and since has been a destination for both new and experienced skaters. City parks and recreation employees maintain the ice, and work on both Rotary Rink and the ice in Victoria Park. Members of the Boys and Girls Club serve as rink monitors.

An octagon of benches has been installed in the centre of Rotary Rink over the last few years to allow more space to sit and to discourage flying pucks and hockey players.

With weather permitting, Rotary Rink will be open this winter season at no charge daily between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and on Sundays when it will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Puddles form in Rotary Rink on Sunday afternoon. Benches, rubber paths, and concrete barriers have been set up for more than a week, but temperatures are still not adequate to start the ice and open the rink. ANDREW SERCOMBE/FOR METRO

Lightning still perfect in NBL

The London Lightning improved to 9-0 on the National Basketball League of Canada season Sunday, with a victory over the Halifax Rainmen at Budweiser Gardens.

London's Adrian Moss led all scorers with 21 points, as the Lightning cruised to a 108-95 victory. Rodney Buford, with 17 points, and Jeremy Williams and Jermaine Blackburn (14 each) were the other leading scorers for London.

Lightning forward Elvin Mims led the team with 16 rebounds. Quinnel Brown netted 16 points to lead the Rainmen, who trailed 52-42 at halftime. The Lightning will try to improve to 10-0 on Friday night with a game against the Jazz in Montreal.

London is the only one of eight teams in the NBL that is undefeated. METRO

London Lightning point guard Adrian Moss fights off guard Melvin Goins of the Halifax Rainmen on Sunday at Budweiser Gardens. ANDREW SERCOMBE/ FOR METRO

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Northern California.
Storm number 3 slams region over the weekend

Another major storm moving into Northern California brought more pouring rain, flooding and additional problems to an area already soaked after two major storms.

Residents of Northern California enjoyed just a bit of a respite, but the most recent storm — the third in a string of powerful weather systems to hit the region since Wednesday — arrived Saturday night and forced several rivers over their banks, as National Weather Service forecasters predicted.

With rivers and streams already running high and the ground saturated from the previous storms, the National Weather Service had issued flood warnings for both the Napa and Russian rivers north of San Francisco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milton Lopez attempts to drive through flood waters in Windsor, Calif., last Friday. Another storm hit the area Saturday. THE PRESS DEMOCRAT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea

China urges stability as rocket launch looms

China expressed concern Sunday over its ally North Korea's plans to launch a long-range rocket in mid-December.

All sides should work for stability and avoid acts that raise tensions, the Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement.

The launch is set for Dec. 10 to 22.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human rights

'Black jailers' sentenced in Beijing

A Beijing court has sentenced a group of men for illegally detaining people seeking to have their complaints heard by the central government, state media reported Sunday, in an apparent blow against attempts by local governments to cover up corruption and other abuses of power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Worldwide pollution levels on the rise

Global warming.
Scientists say CO_2 increase means it's unlikely that countries will meet reduction targets

The amount of heat-trapping pollution the world spewed rose again last year by three per cent. Scientists say it's now unlikely that global warming can be limited to a couple of degrees, which is an international goal.

The overwhelming majority of the increase was from China, the world's biggest carbon dioxide polluter. Of the planet's top 10 polluters, the United States and Germany were the only countries that reduced their carbon dioxide emissions.

Last year, all the world's nations combined pumped nearly 38.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the air from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil, according to new international calculations on global emissions published Sunday in the journal Nature Climate Change. That's about a billion tons more than the previous year.

The total amounts to more than 1.1 million kilograms of carbon dioxide released into the air every second.

Because emissions of the key greenhouse gas have been rising steadily and most carbon stays in the air for a century, it is not just unlikely but "rather optimistic" to think that the world can limit future temperature increases to 2 C, said the study's lead author, Glen Peters at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo, Norway.

Three years ago, nearly 200 nations set the 2 C temperature goal in a non-binding agreement.

Negotiators, now at a conference underway in Doha, Qatar, are trying to find ways to reach that target.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A smoggy morning commute in Beijing. China is responsible for the majority of a three per cent increase in worldwide carbon dioxide levels in 2011, making it the world's biggest polluter. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Conference in Doha

Looking beyond Kyoto

Highlighting a rift between the rich countries and emerging economies like China, New Zealand's climate minister staunchly defended his government's decision to drop out of the emissions pact for developed nations, saying it's an outdated and insufficient response to global warming.

Other key issues at the conference, now starting its second week, include how to help emerging nations switch to climate-friendly energy sources and charting the course for a new treaty that would replace the Kyoto Protocol, which covers only developed countries.

New Zealand backed out of the pact's second phase last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011's biggest polluters

1. China, up 10 per cent to 10 billion tons.
2. United States, down two per cent to 5.9 billion tons.
3. India, up seven per cent to 2.5 billion tons
4. Russia, up three per cent to 1.8 billion tons.
5. Japan, up 0.4 per cent to 1.3 billion tons.

The list continues with Germany, Iran and South Korea, followed by:

9. Canada, up two per cent to 0.6 billion tons.

The list is rounded out with South Africa at 10.

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Sustainability. Bigeye tuna facing overfishing threat: Pacific nations

Pacific island nations and environmentalists raised an alarm Sunday over destructive fishing methods and overfishing that they say are threatening bigeye tuna — the fish popular among sushi lovers worldwide.

Palau fisheries official Nanette Malsol, who leads a bloc of Pacific island nations, said at the start of a weeklong tuna fisheries conference in Manila that large countries should cut back on fishing, curb the use of destructive fishing methods and respect fishing bans to allow tuna stocks to be replenished.

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Egypt's top judges strike over courthouse blockade

Power play. Morsi supporters rally to stop judges from ruling on constitutional bias

Egypt's top court suspended its work indefinitely to protest "psychological and physical pressures" after supporters of the Islamist president prevented judges from entering the courthouse on Sunday to rule on the legitimacy of a disputed constitutional assembly.

The decision by the Supreme Constitutional Court (SCC) is the latest twist in a worsening political crisis pitting President Mohammed Morsi and his allies against the mostly secular opposition and the powerful judiciary. The standoff began when Morsi issued decrees on Nov. 22 that gave him sweeping powers and granted the president — and the constitutional committee — immunity from the courts.

The Islamist-dominated panel drafting the new constitution then raced in a marathon session last week to vote on the charter's 236 clauses without the participation of liberal and Christian members. The fast-track hearing preempted a decision expected from the SCC on whether to dissolve the committee. The judges on Sunday postponed their ruling on that case.

A day earlier, Morsi announced a referendum on the draft charter on Dec. 15, despite opposition protests and questions about the document's legitimacy.

The president's seizure of vast powers has galvanized Egypt's disparate opposition groups, who have united in their demands that Morsi rescind the decrees and create a constituent assembly that is more balanced and inclusive.

Supporters of Morsi, who hails from the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, claim that the court's judges are loyalists of ousted president Hosni Mubarak, who appointed them. Morsi's backers accuse the judges of trying to derail Egypt's transition to democratic rule.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dark times

"(This is) the Egyptian judiciary's blackest day on record."

The Supreme Constitutional Court, describing Sunday's blockade

Riot police block supporters of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi outside the Supreme Constitutional Court in Cairo, Sunday. AHMAD HAMMAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel to withhold tax transfer to Palestinians

Israel on Sunday roundly rejected the United Nations' endorsement of an independent state of Palestine, announcing it would withhold more than $100 million collected for the Palestinian government to pay debts to Israeli companies.

It was the second act of reprisal since the UN General Assembly voted on Thursday to support Palestinian statehood. The following day, Israel announced plans to build thousands of settlement homes, including the first developments on a sensitive piece of land near Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared the campaign, led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, "a gross violation of the agreements signed with ... Israel."

Abbas returned Sunday to a hero's welcome in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Some 5,000 people thronged a square outside his headquarters.

"We now have a state," he said. "The world has said loudly, 'Yes to the state of Palestine.'"

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has vowed to withhold tax payments to the Palestinian Authority. LIOR MIZRAHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abbas warned of "creative punishments" by Israel. Referring to the latest settlement plans, he said, "We have to realize that your victory has provoked the powers of war, occupation and settlements."

The UN resolution endorsed the Palestinian position that its state includes the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, territories captured by Israel.

In response, Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz said the government would withhold taxes and customs collected from Palestinian labourers and businesses on behalf of Abbas's Palestinian Authority.

The money will be used to help pay off the authority's debts to Israel, government officials said. This month, more than $100 million was to have been transferred. Steinitz said Israel would decide later whether to withhold future transfers.

Israel announced Friday that it would press ahead with plans to build 3,000 housing units in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, the core of the Palestinians' hoped-for state.

It also vowed to dust off a master plan to build apartments and hotels on the section of territory east of Jerusalem. Palestinians have warned such construction would doom the creation of a viable state of Palestine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Intelligence. Navy struggles to explain lost and found sensitive data

Electronic records detailing the planned overhaul of Canadian naval intelligence — created when admitted Russian spy Jeffrey Delisle was at the height of his treachery — were deleted from a National Defence database.

Two PowerPoint presentations, aimed at explaining the overhaul to intelligence analysts, were reported deleted when copies were requested this year by The Canadian Press.

Military officials described the deletions as a clerical error.

The navy later claimed some copies had survived in email accounts.

Questions about the deletion come at a time when the military's entire handling of sensitive data is under scrutiny.

"We should be asking questions, absolutely," said retired colonel and military law expert Michel Drapeau.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sub.-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle leaves court in Halifax. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Iran

Death sentence for Canadian resident suspended: Lawyer

A lawyer for Canadian resident Saeed Malekpour said that the computer programmer's death sentence on charges of creating a network of porn websites has been suspended in Iran.

Amnesty International and several activists have expressed caution, reserving judgment for proof of the suspension. Iran has in the past reversed decisions for clemency.

Malekpour has maintained that a software program he created while in Canada was used without his knowledge to post pornography. But he was nevertheless allegedly tortured for a confession and charged with "insulting and desecrating Islam."

After a 2010 trial widely condemned as unfair — and in which he was forbidden to defend himself — he was condemned to death.

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Trade secrets. Couple convicted of stealing info on hybrid car technology

A former General Motors engineer with access to the automaker's hybrid technology was convicted along with her husband of stealing trade secrets for possible use in China.

Shanshan Du won a transfer within GM in 2003 to be closer to the technology and then copied documents until she accepted a severance offer and left the company in 2005, prosecutors said.

Du, 54, and Yu Qin, 51, were found guilty Friday by a federal jury in Detroit after a trial that lasted weeks. Qin also was convicted of wire fraud and attempting to obstruct justice by shredding documents. They shook each other's hand after the verdict but declined to comment, as did their attorneys.

Shanshan Du THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Du faces up to 10 years in prison, while her husband faces up to 30. No sentencing date has been set.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battery maker

China approves Wanxiang bid to buy U.S.'s A123

China has approved a proposal by auto-parts conglomerate Wanxiang Group Corp. to purchase the assets of bankrupt U.S. battery maker A123 Systems.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry's approval of the bid was announced by the official Xinhua News Agency on Sunday. Wanxiang is interested in buying substantially all of the assets of A123, based in Massachusetts. It will have to compete with other bidders, including Johnson Controls Inc., from the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bank of Canada. Traders eye rate announcement, 'fiscal cliff' uncertainty

The Bank of Canada is expected to announce this week that it is leaving interest rates unchanged and continue to give the impression that it's in no rush to move them off ultra-low levels.

Economists are confident the bank will continue to keep its key interest rate unchanged at one per cent, considering the worsening economic conditions around the globe.

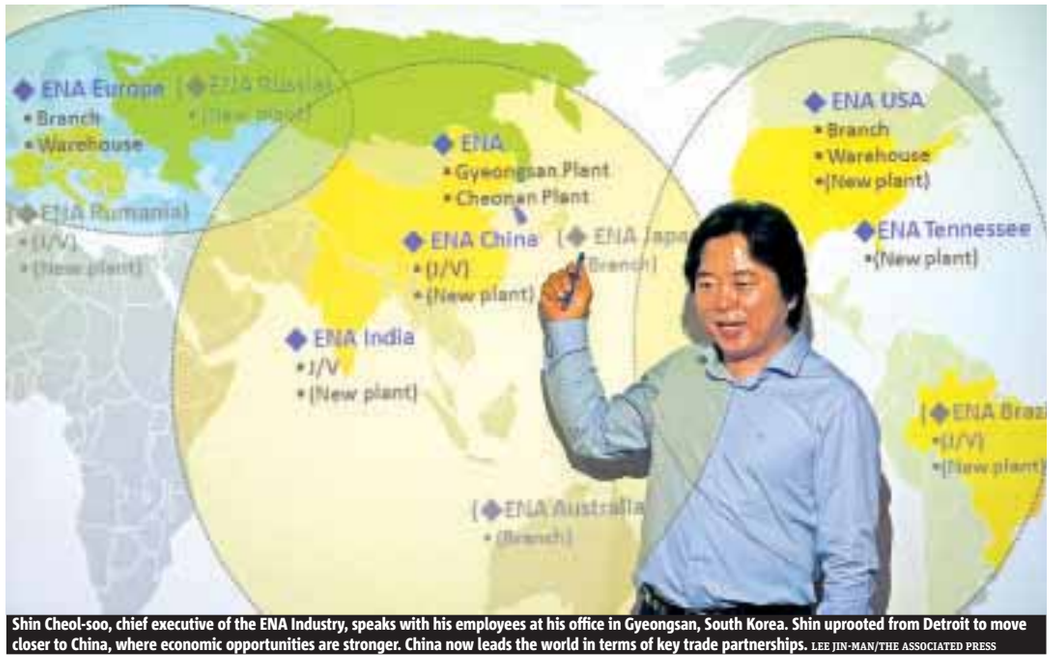
Meanwhile, it's the fear of worsening economies that is expected to produce another volatile week on stock markets as traders look for some progress in avoiding a serious budget impasse in the U.S. that could result in steep tax increases and significant spending cuts at the start of 2013. The worry is that those cuts and hikes would shock the U.S. economy back into recession.

Quoted

"There's no obvious reason for the bank to be raising rates ... for quite some time."

Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Shin Cheol-soo, chief executive of the ENA Industry, speaks with his employees at his office in Gyeongsan, South Korea. Shin uprooted from Detroit to move closer to China, where economic opportunities are stronger. China now leads the world in terms of key trade partnerships. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China tops U.S. as world's trade partner

The hand that feeds. China is starting to push back in disputes over trade, exchange rates and climate change

Power-holder

"The United States is a tiger with no power. Nobody can deny that China is the one now rising."

South Korean businessman Shin Cheol-soo

Shin Cheol-soo no longer sees his future in the United States.

The South Korean businessman supplied components to American automakers for a decade. But this year, he uprooted his family from Detroit and moved home to focus on selling to the new economic superpower: China.

In just five years, China has surpassed the U.S. as a trading partner for much of the world, including U.S. allies such as South Korea and Australia, according to an Associated Press analysis of trade data. As recently as 2006, the U.S. was the larger trading partner for 127 countries, versus just 70 for China. By last year the two had clearly traded places: 124 countries for China, 76 for the U.S.

In the most abrupt global shift of its kind since the Second World War, the trend is changing the way people live and do business from Africa to Arizona, as farmers plant more soybeans to sell to China and students sign up to learn Mandarin.

The findings show how fast China has ascended to challenge America's century-old status as the globe's dominant trader, a change that is gradually translating into political influence. They highlight how pervasive China's impact has been, spreading from neighbouring Asia to Africa and now emerging in Latin America, the traditional U.S. backyard.

Despite China's now-slowing economy, its share of world output and trade is expected to keep rising, with growth forecast at up to eight per cent a year over the next decade.

Last year, Shin's Ena Industry Co. made half his sales of rubber and plastic parts to U.S. factories. But his plans call for China, which overtook the U.S. as the biggest auto market in 2009, to rise fivefold to 30 per cent of his total by 2015.

"The United States is a tiger with no power," Shin said in his office, where three walls are lined with books, many about China. "Nobody can deny that China is the one now rising."

Trade is a bit like football — the balance of exports and imports, like the game score, is a neat snapshot of a jumble of moves that make up the economy, and both sides are apt to accuse each other of cheating from time to time. Also, the U.S. and China are both rivals and partners who can't have a match without each other, and a strong performance from both is good for the entire league.

Trade may get less publicity than military affairs or diplomacy, yet it is commerce that generates jobs and raises living standards. Trade can also translate into political power. As shopkeepers say, the customer is always right: Governments listen to countries that buy their goods, and the threat to stop buying is one of the most potent diplomatic weapons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Jan. 24 photo, protestors dressed as referees rally against the Keystone XL pipeline. U.S. President Obama now faces mounting pressure to decide on whether to approve the $7-billion pipeline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Obama's pipeline decision may be indicative

It's a decision U.S. President Barack Obama put off during the 2012 campaign, but now that he's won a second term, his next move on a proposed oil pipeline between the U.S. and Canada may signal how he will deal with climate and energy issues in the four years ahead.

Obama is facing increasing pressure to determine the fate of the $7-billion Keystone XL project, with environmental activists and oil producers each holding out hope that the president, freed from the political constraints of re-election, will side with them on this and countless other related issues down the road.

On its surface, it's a choice between the promise of jobs and economic growth, and environmental concerns. But it's also become a proxy for a broader fight over American energy consumption and climate change, amplified by Superstorm Sandy and the conclusion of an election that was all about the economy.

"The broader climate movement is absolutely looking at this administration's Keystone XL decision as a really significant decision to signal that dirty fuels are not acceptable in the U.S.," said Danielle Droitsch, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defence Council.

Once content with delays, opponents have launched protests in recent weeks at the White House and in Texas urging Obama to kill the project. On Capitol Hill, support for the pipeline appears to be gaining.

The pipeline became an issue in the campaign and Obama put it on hold while a plan was worked out to avoid routing it through Nebraska's environmentally sensitive Sandhills region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SPREADING SANTA'S SPIRIT TO ALL AGES

URBAN COMPASS
Todd Devlin
london@metronews.ca

Members of the Hawken family have a few extra items on their Christmas shopping lists this year, and the recipients of those extra gifts may just be the most appreciative of all.

Cheryl Hawken and her three adult children are all participating in Be a Santa to a Senior, a program that helps spread holiday cheer and distributes gifts to lonely or financially challenged seniors at Christmas.

"I think it's such a great charity and it was important to me to include my kids," said Hawken, a registered insurance broker in the city. "They'll probably shop together and then come home and wrap the gifts. It's a family thing."

Be a Santa to a Senior is run through London's Home Instead Senior Care, and Hawken says it's an easy way to make a difference in someone's life at Christmas time.

Giving is what it's all about

Hawken says that knowing her family will be providing a nice Christmas moment this year for seniors who might not otherwise receive gifts gives her a good feeling.

The Londoner considers herself lucky to have so many family members in the city who frequently visit her father, who is now in a nursing home. Not everyone is so fortunate, she says, and that's a big reason why she thinks the Be a Santa to a Senior program is so valuable.

"Some people just don't have family around or family living, so for them to have this little something to look forward to at Christmas … I think it must be wonderful for them."

There are plenty in the community who benefit. Last year, gifts were delivered to 250 seniors, and this year Home Instead is looking to serve more than 300 in the community.

Getting involved is easy. Those interested can either visit the Home Instead office or any of the local Be a Santa to a Senior partnering organizations, including Blackfriar's Salon and Spas, Fisher & Company, the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging and London's Airport Kia, a new partner who will be donating $50 to the cause for every car sold this holiday season.

Each location has a Christmas tree filled with paper ornaments that list the gift requests of anonymous seniors. Participants simply remove an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift and bring it back unwrapped to the same location. Volunteers then wrap and deliver the gifts on Christmas Day. It's as simple as that.

In the past, gifts have included books, slippers, pajamas and blankets.

"They ask for the cutest things," said Hawken, who has also recruited 18 members of her networking group — Forest City NRG — to participate this year. "A lot ask for candy or chocolate, and they get what they ask for, which is really nice."

Hawken says that knowing her family will be providing a nice Christmas moment this year for seniors who might not otherwise receive gifts gives her a good feeling.

"You know in your heart you're doing something that is going to make somebody else really happy on Christmas morning," she said. "It's a nice thought, and I think it's a wonderful thing for a family to do."

London's Home Instead franchise owners Victoria and James Chalmers sit among gifts to be delivered to seniors as part of last year's program.
CONTRIBUTED

Cartooning consumerism

CONTRIBUTED

Windsor, Ont.

Tagging acts as culture commentary

The iconic cartoon father, pasted to the side of a shuttered 7-Eleven in Windsor, Ont., cries out in pain, blood dripping from his hands and wrists. Dubbed Homercidal, he's the work of street artist Ben Frost.

"It's as if consumerism has affected Windsor in a way that's burst the bubble," he says. "Homer has the blood of the workers on his hands."

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

D'oh

- Frost also affixed a two-headed Dewey (of Duck Tales fame) to an abandoned Kentucky Fried Chicken, and a somewhat disturbing version of Bambi to a former Home Depot location.
- The KFC duck clearly invokes urban legends about the company using genetically modified animals in its food, while the Home Depot piece is a comment on mass-produced goods.

Buyer's remorse

Message might stick

Frost uses his art as a form of social commentary.

"In a lot of ways, it's about using corporate imagery as a way to take the power back, taking their logos and what they're feeding us, and subverting it," he says.

Frost's pieces are paper posters affixed using simple adhesives. The method helps minimize his chance of a run-in with the law.

"Because it's paper, you can only get in trouble for littering," he says. METRO

Not about doughnuts

"It's a nod to a consumer culture where we're just creating simulations of the same stuff ... Especially at a place like Home Depot where there's five million $1 paintbrushes. There must be a machine somewhere that's just spitting them out."

Ben Frost, Toronto-based street artist

Youth centre expands with new digs

News worth sharing

Media will always have to report on the tough stuff. But we know that Canada is full of compassionate individuals, inspiring projects and stories worth celebrating. Here's just one.

Wisdom, love, respect and honesty now have a new home in the Sarnia-Lambton region.

These are among the values held in high regard at the Sarnia-Lambton Native Friendship Centre (SLNFC), which in November moved to a new location at 233 Lochiel St. in Sarnia.

The centre, which provides services and programs for at-risk Aboriginal youth living in urban areas, is now able to expand its capacity from three programs to seven.

SLNFC's current offerings — youth and children's groups and a healthy living program — are in high demand and often leave young people on waiting lists.

With up to 80 per cent of First Nations people in the area living off-reserve, according to SLNFC, its resources are vital to the community.

And thanks to the facility's new location, those waiting lists may be a thing of the past.

To learn more about SLNFC, visit slnfc.org.

CRAIG AND MARC KIELBURGER

Craig and Marc Kielburger are founders of international charity and educational partner, Free The Children. Its youth empowerment event, We Day, is in eight cities across Canada this year, inspiring more than 100,000 attendees. Email us for more information and to get involved. Help the good news get around. Send your stories of local heroes and positive action to goodnews@metowe.com and we'll share them right here.

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Torture? That's fine, but don't beat him at ping-pong

Silent Night. Latest role offers McDowell — who relished beating Stanley Kubrick at table tennis — a rare chance to play the good guy

RICHARD CROUSE
Scene@metronews.ca

Malcolm McDowell plays the good guy for a change in Silent Night. GETTY IMAGES

On Wednesday, the two most popular items on my Facebook site were a picture of a kimono-wearing David Bowie playing ping-pong, the other a mention of my upcoming interview with Malcolm McDowell.

My reference to McDowell, the menacing actor who famously played the man who killed Captain Kirk in Star Trek: Generations and became an icon starring as Alex DeLarge in A Clockwork Orange, drew dozens of comments. The interview was meant to promote Silent Night, a Winnipeg-shot slasher flick about a killer Santa Claus, on DVD next week, but before we get into talking about the film, however, I tell him about the postings. He connects the dots between table tennis and his most famous film.

It seems director Stanley Kubrick and McDowell played ping-pong on the set of A Clockwork Orange. When I ask who usually won, he said:

"He never ever took a set from me. I wiped the floor with him with such great relish because it was the only thing I could really beat him at. He was tormenting me as the character and I'm sure deep down he enjoyed it. He was a little bit sadistic. I went through quite a lot of nasty injuries from the eye thing and horrible things like being dunked in water and almost drowned. There was a lot of physical abuse. So when I could get my own back, I really loved it." When I ask if he still plays the game, he replies, "No, I haven't played in years."

Hasn't had time I guess.

An on-going role in the series Franklin and Bush and 17 other IMDB credits for 2012 alone are proof that at age 69, he keeps as busy as most actors half his age. He says Silent Night was a welcome change, however.

Usually cast as a baddie, he was chuffed to play the brave sheriff of a town terrorized by a slaying Santa. "Without pandering to the audience, I just wanted to bring a little lightness and humour to it without chewing the scenery," he says. "Well, not too much."

Not that he's unhappy playing villains. "In my early career, I started playing heavies," he says. "Clockwork Orange is one of the great heavies. If I had been playing heroic types I'd have had a short career. Playing heavies has allowed me to work no matter what my age."

Shania Twain. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twain back and Still The One

Standing ovation. Canadian country star overwhelmed by adoring fans during emotional comeback concert in Las Vegas

Shania Twain roared into her first live show in more than eight years perched atop a glistening motorcycle on Saturday, dangling on wires at least three metres in the air in a sequined black catsuit, her thick brown hair flowing behind her.

Without singing a word, she then received her first standing ovation from an adoring Caesars Palace audience. Shania was back. And her new Las Vegas digs seemed an even better fit for the Canadian-bred country starlet than the skin-tight costume she wore as she stomped her thigh-high black boots back across the stage for the first time since July 2004. Next, fierce guitars cut like buzzsaws as her 13-piece band launched into I'm Gonna Getcha Good and Twain strutted about the stage as if she'd never left.

But of course, she did leave — and she didn't let the sold-out crowd forget that they were witnessing a tough, triumphant moment for the 47-year-old many still consider the Queen of Country.

"Thank you. Thank you so much — you guys are going to get me all emotional, and then my eyelashes are going to fall off," said Twain, dabbing at her eyes as she addressed the audience for the first time.

And yet, this 100-minute show — titled Shania: Still The One — was at once a callback to one of the most successful runs in recent music history as well as a chic, cheeky look toward a new era in Twain's career.

And she certainly looked rejuvenated. She laughed often — even when it threatened to throw off her delicate diction — she blew kisses, she waded into the crowd, she mimed cymbal smashes and occasionally tossed off seemingly improvised dance moves imbued with the spontaneous joy of someone lost in the moment.

"You guys having a good time so far?" she asked halfway through her set.

"I hope so, 'cause that's the only reason I do this. ... Otherwise I would just stay on my lonesome and sing."

Yes, Twain still effortlessly projected the warmly accessible cowgirl next door, even while wholeheartedly embracing the glitz and sizzle expected on the Las Vegas Strip. She first sent a jolt through the crowd by charging onstage on the back of a black stallion before launching into a rowdy take on Ain't No Quitter with the stage decorated to look like a Wild West saloon.

During That Don't Impress Me Much, meanwhile, huge metal pipes churned out smoke on either side of the stage while snarling leopards were projected on the walls.

And during You're Still the One, she trotted onstage on a different horse, a white equine this time, before gently frolicking with it throughout the performance, confetti shaped like snowflakes falling from the sky.

Saturday's show was extra meaningful in part because Twain has been in vocal rehabilitation for years, since reporting the sudden loss of her voice following her painful split from studio wizard and key creative collaborator Robert (Mutt) Lange. If Twain showed hints of rust in her voice early, she only sounded more robust and comfortable as the gig went on, setting an especially lofty mark for herself during a lovely version of From This Moment On.

While the show was a family friendly affair, Twain also proved that, after nearly a decade spent out of the public eye, she's still not shy about tapping into the power of her sex appeal — and this is, after all, Vegas.

Twain's initial tour run will include 10 performances through Dec. 15, with the next 14-show engagement beginning March 19.

And the fact that Come On Over is still the best-selling studio album by a female act and best-selling country album of all time, she shouldn't have a problem selling all dates out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twitter

@rustyrockets
On my way to #PerthArena, first comic to play there. And last - the finale involves clumsy pyrotechnics.

@KChenoweth
I think im tryin to get the flu. But i wont let it happen.

@billmaher
Dec. 1 is kind of a depressing day - into the last month now...another year shot, another year closer to death. Happy Holidays everybody!

@kevin_nealon
Conundrum Question: What if global warming was responsible for no earthquakes lately in California?

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"Data transmission charges of 3¢/kB apply when roaming (0.6¢/kB in the U.S.)."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Ke$ha wouldn't rule out romance with the Biebs

While Justin Bieber appears to be patching things up with Selena Gomez, he can take comfort in the fact that he'd have other options if the reconciliation doesn't work out. When asked by Rolling Stone if she'd be interested in getting intimate with the 18-year-old pop star, rapper Ke$ha gives a resounding, "Sure" before asking, "Wait, is he even legal? Could I go to jail for this?" Once assured that Bieber is in fact of age, Ke$ha adds, "OK then, I would. We could go out and buy lottery tickets, vote, play putt-putt golf. All the things that are legal at the age of 18."

Justin Bieber

Quoted

"Wait, is he even legal? Could I go to jail for this?"

Ke$ha On getting intimate with Justin Bieber

A biting affair: Pattinson keeps Stewart on her toes

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson may have reconciled following her cheating scandal this summer, but it's not necessarily all smooth sailing between the Twilight co-stars. "Things will be strained for a while," a source tells Us Weekly. "Rob is at a point where he sometimes ignores her. He'll go out and won't respond to her calls or texts right away. She knows she has to go along with it. She is working hard at the relationship."

Robert Pattinson

Jessica Biel ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Biel loves calling Timberlake her hubby

Jessica Biel is adjusting to married life, as weird as it may seem to her just over a month after tying the knot with Justin Timberlake.

"It's weird because it feels like almost nothing has changed, yet something that you can't really describe — or something that isn't tangible — has changed," she tells Ellen DeGeneres in an interview.

"I think the weirdest and kind of most wonderful thing is that word, 'That's my husband.' That's the word. And every time I say it, I go really Southern with it. It's weird."

Custody agreement final for Berry and ex Aubry

After a lengthy custody battle that came to a head with a bloody Thanksgiving brawl between Gabriel Aubry and Olivier Martinez, Halle Berry and ex-boyfriend Aubry have reportedly reached a custody agreement over their four-year-old daughter Nahla — though details are hard to come by. "The parties have reached an amicable agreement. There will be no further statements regarding this matter," Berry's lawyer said in a statement to People magazine.

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Water activities

Little swimmers

Beyond sleeping soundly, new research suggests kids who swim also hit developmental milestones earlier than their landlocked peers.

The Griffith Institute for Educational Research pooled together three years' worth of data from 7,000 under-fives from Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. in the most comprehensive study on the impact of early years swimming.

Swimmers outperformed non-swimmers, regardless of socio-economic background and gender. Not only were visual-motor skills milestones achieved earlier, but children who swam also scored better in areas of literacy and numeracy. JULIE M. GREEN, YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

Cleanup

Easy linen closet solutions

Have you ever found yourself pulling apart your entire linen closet in a desperate search for matching sheets and pillowcases?

Well, there's a super simple solution that I wish I would have thought of years ago!

When you are putting your sheets away, fold and place them inside the matching pillowcase. That way, everything is in one pillowcase — perfectly neat and folded.

Bonus: No one will notice how well (or not well) your fitted sheets are folded.

JOYCE REYNOLDS, YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

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- **Tweet tweet.** Even the wrong tweet can send mommy into a tailspin of tears, so she had to unfollow Miley Cyrus. Follow along with the comedic (mis)adventures of mommyhood with Reasons Mommy Drinks online at metronews.ca/voices

No child should feel afraid to go to school — ever

Bullying. The increasing problem hits close to home for one family

CONSUELO BERNARDI
yummymummyclub.ca

It's 2:03 a.m. and I'm wide-awake. My mind keeps replaying a conversation my husband and I had with our six-year-old son, who told us he was being bullied at school.

It was the hardest, most gut-wrenching conversation I've ever had. My son was a happy, optimistic kid who recently had turned into an angry, moody and argumentative shell of himself. For the longest time, I blamed myself for going back to work. I wish my job was the reason behind the change.

He was afraid of recess. He didn't want to be pushed or called an idiot and a baby.

The worst part was that he was starting to believe these words. He said, "I know you keep saying that they are just words and I should ignore them, but sometimes the words are just too strong and my brain tells me to believe them. Maybe I am the world's worst boy and I don't deserve to be at that school or in this family. Or maybe I shouldn't even be on this earth. Those boys are making my life shorter. I feel that in my head."

No six-year-old should ever say these words. No child should feel afraid to go to school — ever.

I now have a heightened sense of urgency to find a bullying solution. I get that kids will be kids, but this generation seems to be increasingly filled with kids who push and test the boundaries with no true sense of what consequences their actions will have.

Schools need the resources and support to deal with this ever-growing problem. Parents need to be more proactive.

We need to talk to our kids about being bullied, what bullying is and what it does. We need to keep the lines of communication open and keep the dialogue going until it sinks in.

Before he finally fell asleep, my son asked if we were mad at him for telling us what was bothering him. We both told him how incredibly proud of him we were because we knew how hard it was for him to tell us, especially since it had been bothering him for such a long time. We told him we thought he was very brave. He cried. We cried. We exchanged I love yous and extra long hugs.

Bullying proves that words can hurt. ISTOCK

I stayed with him until he fell asleep, just staring, watching him breathe and hoping that his mind would be filled with nothing but good dreams while he slept. And I wished that in the morning he would turn back into that happy, carefree little boy I once knew.

YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA IS AN ONLINE RESOURCE TO HELP BUSY WOMEN SURVIVE MOTHERHOOD

Roll up your sleeves and bake with kids

There are ways to enjoy baking with the little ones. ISTOCK

Bonding. Having little ones help in the kitchen creates memories

MOMSTOWN
Yummymummyclub.ca

You're covered in flour, the floor is a mess of coconut and chocolate chips, and your kids' fingers won't stay out of the mixing bowl.

It sounds like a disaster, right? Nope, it's a memory. It's a learning experience. It's a wonderful holiday tradition for you to create with your kids. It's a moment that's worth all of the cookie crumbs and vagrant coconut pieces.

Baking with your kids is really something they will remember forever.

Take the plunge, pull out your apron and remember these five tips to help your survive baking with the kids.

Make a plan
Get ahead of the mess and set up the ingredients along with bowls, measuring cups and the mixer. The more organized you are, the better.

Reason for the insanity
Make something to give to the teacher or neighbour in a cookie exchange. By planning it that way, you're less likely to bail on the plan and more likely to help your child develop pride in his or her work and giving.

Choose a creative project that's easy to adapt
A project or recipe that is too complex will be frustrating for both you and the kids. Small hands and short attention spans will do better with projects that have only a few simple steps.

Document!
Take loads of pictures of the whole process for the memory books (or social networking sites). If the cookies burn, you'll be bummed about having no treats, but you'll still be able to reflect on how much fun it was.

Eggnog never hurts
There's nothing wrong with mama chef enjoying a little spiked eggnog during the baking process. It helps turn a blind eye to the egg shells in the batter and the fingers in the bowl. We're all real moms, right?

A Tex-Mex fiesta in a bowl

The garnishes for this Tortilla, Sautéed Corn and Plum Tomato Soup make it a real Tex-Mex favourite as well as a beautiful-looking soup.

It's a great starter to a main course of fajitas, burritos or quesadillas.

I buy flavoured tortillas in bulk and freeze them.

To defrost, place the entire package in the microwave oven and heat on high for 30 seconds, or just until you can break away the number you need. Refreeze the remainder.

The different colours add interest to any meal.

This recipe serves six. LORELLA ZANETTI, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 2 tsp minced fresh garlic
- 3/4 cup drained canned corn kernels
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 3/4 cup rinsed and drained canned black beans
- 3 tbsp basmati rice
- 1 tsp hot chili paste
- 1 cup diced plum tomatoes
- 2 1/2 tsp cornstarch
- 1/4 tsp salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup thinly sliced flavored flour tortillas
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or parsley
- 1/4 cup low-fat sour cream

1. Spray a non-stick saucepan with cooking oil, add the vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Cook the onion, green pepper and garlic, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes or until the onions are golden. Stir in the corn and cook for 5 minutes, or until the corn begins to brown.

2. Stir in the stock, black beans, rice and chili paste. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 12 minutes.

3. Add the tomatoes, cornstarch (dissolved in 1 tbsp of water) and salt and pepper. Simmer for 2 minutes until slightly thickened.

4. Ladle the soup into individual bowls and garnish each serving with tortilla strips, fresh herbs, and sour cream.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

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When in doubt at Pizza Hut, one meat is better than six in calories and fat.

Pizza Hut Meat Lovers multi-grain personal pizza

740 calories/ 34 g fat
The name says it all. Six fatty meats account for the calories and fat. It's close to half your daily calories and fat in just one small meal.

Equivalent

One Pizza Hut Meat Lovers multi-grain personal pizza is equivalent in calories to three hot dogs with buns, ketchup and mustard.

Pizza Hut Pepperoni on multi-grain personal pizza

510 calories/ 17 g fat
Pepperoni in moderation cuts the fat in half and contains less calories than the Meat Lovers choice.

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The In-Credibility Factor

Name: Cody Battershill
City: Calgary
Age: 28
Occupation: Real estate agent and community activist

THE IN-CREDIBILITY FACTOR
Teresa Kruze
life@metronews.ca

Cody Battershill had plans to become a lawyer, but when his mother suggested he get into real estate he switched gears and became an immediate success.

Two years into his career, he was honoured with the MLS Millionaire Dollar Club Award and was in the top one per cent of sellers in his company. Focused and very successful in his career, Cody is also intensely committed to his city and volunteers with more than seven child and youth organizations in Calgary.

I knew I was on my way when... I was 20 years old and I sold my first house. I felt like I had gotten to the first yard marker of my success in my new career, but it's been eight years and I've never looked back.

Cody Battershill PROVIDED

A lot of people talk about balance. For me, that's having a family, being a pillar of the community and helping those less fortunate. One of the best things is the friendships you make. Everywhere I go I see people that have become my friends because I helped them accomplish their real estate goals. The No. 1 most important thing for me is to put my clients and their concerns first. Don't focus on the money, focus on the client.

Action Plan

- **Never stop reading, learning and growing**
- Embrace technology. I read 25 magazines and two books a month on the Internet.
- I have over 20,000 friends on Facebook and I had 25,000 visitors to my website because I love what I do.
- Do things for the right reason and the business will follow.

- **Surround yourself with the right people**

Look for successful people who can mentor and guide you. Ask them as much as you can for advice, career direction and planning.

- **Stay focused on your goals**

Don't let anyone discourage you. Your life is what you make it so set goals for this month, this year and then five years down the road.

Short term setbacks always lead to longer term success with the right attitude.

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London's Nesbitt wins gold but says she can do better

Long-track speedskating. Local racer wins both 1,500-metre and team-pursuit events as impressive season continues

Canada's Christine Nesbitt added to her gold-medal collection Sunday, winning the 1,500 metres at a long-track speedskating World Cup in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The London native then teamed up with Ivanie Blondin of Ottawa and Brittany Schussler of Winnipeg to win the team pursuit.

Nesbitt, who has two gold and a bronze in the 1,500 metres this season, raced to a time of one minute 57.18 seconds. Dutch teammates Marrit Leenstra and Linda de Vries took silver (1:57.29) and bronze (1:57.30).

"It was an OK race. I had a good opener and first lap, so the first 700 metres was decent," Nesbitt said. "In the last two laps I was struggling to keep smooth. My last lap was painful but it was just enough to hold off a win.

"It's a nice way to finish the 1,500 World Cups this fall."

In the women's team pursuit, Canada's threesome improved on their bronze-medal finish from their World Cup opener in the Netherlands. They crossed in 2:58.40, 2.15 seconds faster than South Korea. The Netherlands won bronze in 3:00.71.

"It was definitely a tough mental race to get through but knowing that I had Brittany and Christine there by my side made it all that much easier," Blondin said. "This is our third year all training together, which is why we are able to work so well as a team. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses. It makes it all that much easier to work together, be strong and be able to skate like we did today."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I'm definitely looking forward to coming back this winter and finishing stronger."

London's Christine Nesbitt after winning World Cup gold on the 1,500-metre long-track on Sunday in Astana, Kazakhstan.

London's Christine Nesbitt rounds a corner during the women's 1500-metre race on Sunday in Astana, Kazakhstan. ALEXEI FILIPPOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chiefs find win amidst the grief

Kansas City Chiefs players kneel and pray before a game against the Carolina Panthers on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo. PETER AIKEN/GETTY IMAGES

Against the backdrop of an unthinkable tragedy, the Kansas City Chiefs gave themselves a reason to be proud Sunday — and perhaps the impetus to let the healing begin.

Brady Quinn threw for 201 yards and two touchdowns, and Jamaal Charles ran for 127 yards in the Chiefs' 27-21 victory over the Carolina Panthers. The win snapped an eight-game losing streak during one of the most difficult seasons the franchise has ever experienced.

The win came a day after linebacker Jovan Belcher allegedly shot his girlfriend multiple times, then drove to the team's practice facility and turned the gun on himself as GM Scott Pioli and coach Romeo Crennel looked on.

Pioli walked through the press box before the game and said he was doing "OK," though he didn't stop to talk. Crennel was on the sideline coaching his team to an uplifting victory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have so many guys on our team and our coaching staff who are really, really hurting."

Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt

Crime scene

People were coming and going Sunday from a house where a day before Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher allegedly shot and killed his girlfriend.

- Police did not release additional information Sunday.
- Kasandra M. Perkins, 22, was shot multiple times Saturday morning. Belcher drove to Arrowhead Stadium to thank GM Scott Pioli and coach Romeo Crennel for all they'd done for him before he fatally shot himself in the practice facility's parking lot.

Curling

Lawton wins ladies' Capital One event

Stefanie Lawton of Saskatoon captured the Capital One Canada's Cup women's curling title Sunday in Moose Jaw, Sask., with a 6-4 victory over Team Jennifer Jones.

Lawton teamed up with Marliese Kasner, Sherri Singler and Sherry Anderson to score one in the 10th end to clinch the win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stefanie Lawton THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Head honchos to sit out round of talks

The NHL's collective bargaining talks will resume without the key negotiators in the room.

A handful of owners and players will meet Tuesday afternoon in New York.

Commissioner Gary Bettman proposed the meeting last week and the NHLPA accepted it on Sunday.

Both he and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr won't be present for the session. The NHL lockout is into its 12th week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gary Bettman GETTY IMAGES FILE

NBA

"I think they're a hell of a basketball team. I really do."

Phoenix Suns coach Alvin Gentry about the Knicks, who beat the Suns 106-99, Sunday. The Knicks are 7-0 at home this season and 18-1 in the regular season at Madison Square Garden under coach Mike Woodson.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you jump to conclusions today you will most likely get it completely wrong, so be careful. That applies both to personal affairs and to your career. Remember: a quick decision is not always the best decision.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Think twice before deciding your next move, then think a third time to be on the safe side. With Jupiter strong in your chart you could make a lot of money – but you could just as easily lose it too.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It could turn out to be costly if you act on the advice of a colleague. Trust your own judgment and make your own decisions, even if it means going against "expert" opinion which, as you know, is not always reliable.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What is your weak spot? What area are you most vulnerable in? Make sure you know and make sure you are well protected because your rivals will seek to exploit it over the next 24 hours. Be on your guard.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
For some strange reason the words you are using don't sound the way you want them to sound. In which case your best bet is probably to say nothing at all, at least for the next 24 to 48 hours.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With the Sun opposing Jupiter across important angles of your chart you will need to make a conscious effort not to go over the top. Whatever it is that is winding you up right now let it go.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Common sense should tell you that you don't have the time to do everything yourself, so get help from people who share your aims and ideals. They may never do as good a job as you, but what choice do you have?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Stop thinking so hard and focus on tasks that are physical rather than intellectual. Not only will your mind get the rest it needs but the answer to an old problem will pop into your head when you least expect it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With Jupiter, your ruler, opposed by the Sun today you may fear the worst about a partnership issue, but there really is no need. Everything will work out for the best in the end. Somehow it always does.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Partners and colleagues are far too busy sorting out their own problems at the moment to worry much about yours. Which is annoying in one way but good in another. They are less likely to watch what you're up to!

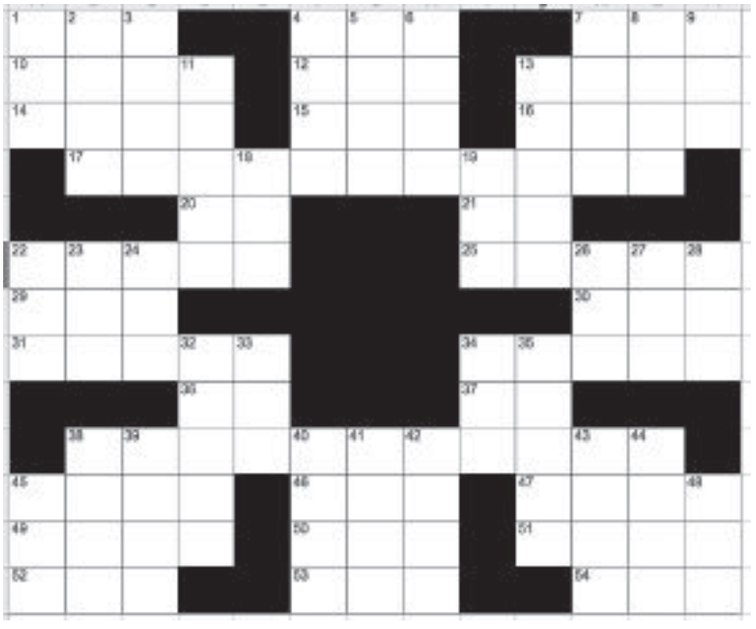
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Take what you hear from a friend with a large pinch of salt, because the planets warn they are exaggerating. If they tell you one thing and your sixth sense tells you the opposite you must trust your own inner voice.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It might be best not to make any sudden or far-reaching decisions, but if you have to make a choice of some kind make sure you consult family and friends.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

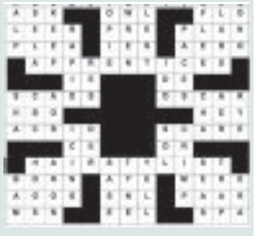
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Mistake
4. Prone
7. French soul
10. Form of transport
12. Flowery meadow
13. Study hard for a test
14. "He's Just Not That — You"
15. Hockey great
16. Flying (prefix)
17. Home of Parry Sound (2 words)
20. British thanks
21. Two, in Rome
22. Flooded
25. Fury
29. One of the judges on Dancing with the Stars
30. The night before
31. Wards off
34. Absolutely perfect
36. Apiece (abbr.)
37. Regarding (abbr.)
38. Depict
45. Continental currency
46. Airport listing (abbr.)
47. The — Ranger
49. 'A' – – Apple (2 words)
50. Dismal
51. Gradual
52. Abbr. found on a map
53. – la la
54. Wind direction (abbr.)

Down
1. Silkworm
2. Pealed
3. Ceremonial act
4. Like a bump on – – (2 words)
5. Gilpin of Frasier
6. "Gone with the Wind" plantation
7. Land measure
8. Name repeated in a nursery rhyme
9. Funnyman Philips
11. Hauls
13. Log home
18. School cheer
19. Actress Peeples
22. TV alien
23. Tiny
24. Raggedy doll
26. Golly!
27. Longoria of Desperate Housewives
28. Family mem.
32. Evil one
33. — Paulo, Brazil
34. Bargain basement abbr.
35. Buys and sells
38. Sneeze inducer
39. A great lake
40. Retreat
41. Nova
42. Cry of accomplishment
43. Allure
44. Dukes of Hazzard spin-off
45. Corn serving
48. Female sheep

Friday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's Sudoku

1	5	3	7	2	4	6	8	9
2	7	6	9	8	5	4	1	3
8	4	9	6	1	3	2	5	7
9	8	4	5	3	7	1	2	6
7	1	5	2	6	8	9	3	4
6	3	2	1	4	9	8	7	5
5	9	1	4	7	2	3	6	8
3	2	7	8	9	6	5	4	1
4	6	8	3	5	1	7	9	2

1								5
	4	7				8	2	
			8	5	2			
		6	3	2	1	7		
2	9						8	1
		5	4	8	9	2		
			7	3	8			
	3	2				9	4	
6								8

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